



Grading Improvements for 2017-2018 School Year – Questions & Answers

Course grades are an important method of communicating a student's performance within a given course. Input gathered from the community engagement sessions prompted a thorough review of the current grading practices to ensure meaningfulness, consistency, accuracy and timeliness. The following questions and answers summarize the grading improvements beginning with the 2017-2018 school year:

Q: What will students and parents see in Infinite Campus for grades throughout a semester?
A: *Individual assignments, tests, etc. can still be seen, but there will be consistency of seeing either all percentages or all letter grades for a course – not a mixture.*

Q: When will official grades be issued?
A: *Students will still receive their official grade for the class at the end of each 18-week semester as they have done in the past. This is the grade that is posted on the student's official transcript as the only permanent grade for the course. This grade is a compilation of the student's work over the past 18 weeks, plus the final exam grade.*

Q: Are there quarter grades?
A: *No, 9-week quarter grades worth 40% are no longer given. The semester grade is based on the work completed over the 18-week period weighted at 80%, plus the final exam grade weighted at 20%. This gives students a chance to show their improvement over 18 weeks as opposed to 9 weeks and is similar to a typical collegiate grading system.*

Q: Are there mid-term notices?
A: *No, instead of mid-term notices, in-progress grade checkpoints will occur at 6 weeks and 12 weeks each semester. The 6-week and 12-week in-progress grade checkpoints will include the current in-progress grade for the class, plus any comments from the teacher.*

Q: Are there any changes to the comments teachers can use for the 6- and 12-week in-progress checkpoints?
A: *Yes, teachers recently began the review of the comments to make them more meaningful to students and parents. The improved progress comments describe academic behaviors as well as communication skills, attitude, work ethic, timeliness, problem solving skills, teamwork and flexibility demonstrated in the classroom. These "soft skills" are frequently required in employment settings and are helpful habits and skills to practice during high school.*

Q: How do I find out what will be included in the semester grade?
A: *Each teacher will provide every student with an informative course syllabus that conveys the expectations and requirements of the course. The syllabus will include the categories that are graded during the semester and the value of those categories in relationship to the semester grade.*

Look for the course syllabus for each class at the beginning of the school year. The syllabus will explain the categories and percentages that make-up the semester grade. This information will be used by the teacher to set-up the view you see in Infinite Campus as you examine individual scores on assignments throughout the semester.